



[SCORE]

STERNENLIEBE

Love Among the Stars

Nocturne in Db Major

by Mason Kistler

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- STERNENLIEBE -

1

“Love Among the Stars”

Nocturne in Db-major for Pianoforte

by Mason Kistler

ABOUT THE PIECE

Sternenliebe is one of the few solo pieces of my catalogue. The literal translation is “Love of the stars,” however, I always preferred “Love Among the Stars” as its implication. Written in 2025, this work captures passionate love. It was my letter to an admirer, however, our connection was never realized by the time I left for a new chapter of my education and career. Attached on the manuscript was this message, and when reading it now, the more I reflect on what could have been:

"Not a day will go by where I don't think of you. Not a night will go by where I wouldn't wish to see you. This piece is my reminder that each time you look to the sky, I am under the same stars looking back hoping to embrace you again. When you hear me play it, know it's because I am thinking of you."

The musical content is rather simple, with the form being a reduced ternary (A-B-A'). Due to the time restrictions I had when writing, I shortened the recapitulation to only state the theme once, which in context, allows the piece to feel like binary-form with coda. The inspiration for this work came from the style of Franz Liszt and his Liebesträume nocturnes. While not as extensive as a Liszt nocturne, the challenge in this work comes from the extended arpeggios in the left hand.

Duration:
c. 3:00

Pianoforte

- STERNENLIEBE -

Mason Kistler

For all the nights with you under the stars...

(ASCAP)

Adagio, con amore

dolce cantando

Reo.

5

10

15

19

smorz.

23 Cadenza

pp legato cresc.

Musical score for measures 23-24. The piece is in B-flat major (three flats). Measure 23 begins with a piano (pp) dynamic and a legato marking. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale, while the left hand has a whole note chord. Measure 24 continues the scale in the right hand, which is marked with a crescendo (cresc.).

25

f con forza m.s. m.d. p

Musical score for measures 25-26. Measure 25 starts with a forte (f) dynamic and a 'con forza' marking. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale, and the left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measure 26 continues the scales, with 'm.s.' (mano sinistra) and 'm.d.' (mano destra) markings. The piece ends with a piano (p) dynamic and a fermata. A small asterisk (*) is at the bottom right.

27 Più animato, con passione infuocata

cresc. sempre

Musical score for measures 27-30. The piece is in B-flat major. Measure 27 starts with a 'cresc. sempre' marking. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale, and the left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measures 28-30 continue the scales, with a piano (p) dynamic marking at the end of measure 30.

31

Musical score for measures 31-34. The piece is in B-flat major. Measure 31 starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale, and the left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measures 32-34 continue the scales, with a piano (p) dynamic marking at the end of measure 34.

35

Musical score for measures 35-38. The piece is in B-flat major. Measure 35 starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The right hand plays a descending eighth-note scale, and the left hand plays a descending eighth-note scale. Measures 36-38 continue the scales, with a piano (p) dynamic marking at the end of measure 38.

39

8va sempre

Musical score for measures 39-41. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score is written for piano. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with a dashed line above it indicating an octave shift. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line. The tempo marking *And.* is present below the first measure.

42

8

Musical score for measures 42-45. The key signature has four flats. The time signature is 4/4. The score is written for piano. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with a dashed line above it indicating an octave shift. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line. The dynamic marking *ff* is present below the first measure.

46

8

Musical score for measures 46-49. The key signature has four flats. The time signature is 4/4. The score is written for piano. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with a dashed line above it indicating an octave shift. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line.

50

loco

più dolce

Musical score for measures 50-53. The key signature has four flats. The time signature is 4/4. The score is written for piano. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with a dashed line above it indicating an octave shift. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line. The tempo marking *loco* is present above the first measure, and the dynamic marking *più dolce* is present below the first measure.

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. The key signature has four flats. The time signature is 4/4. The score is written for piano. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody with a dashed line above it indicating an octave shift. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line.

58 *Morendo*

Measures 58-61 of the musical score. The right hand plays a series of chords, while the left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present in the first measure. A fermata is placed over the final measure (61).

62

Measures 62-64 of the musical score. The right hand continues with chords, and the left hand continues with eighth notes. A *smorz.* (diminuendo) marking is placed over measures 63 and 64. A fermata is placed over the final measure (64).

65

Measures 65-68 of the musical score. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays eighth notes. A *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking is placed over measure 68. A fermata is placed over the final measure (68).

69 *Morendo, come un ricordo d'amore.*

Measures 69-72 of the musical score. The right hand plays a melodic line, and the left hand plays eighth notes. A *dolce cantando* (sweetly singing) marking is placed over measure 69. A fermata is placed over the final measure (72).

73

Measures 73-76 of the musical score. The right hand plays a melodic line, and the left hand plays eighth notes. A *ritenuto* (ritardando) marking is placed over measure 73. A *smorz.* (diminuendo) marking is placed over measures 74 and 75. A *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking is placed over measure 76. A fermata is placed over the final measure (76). An 8vb (octave below) marking is placed under the final measure.